



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/873,072	05/31/2001	Gianpaolo Callioni	HP-10011194	3975

7590 06/27/2006
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

GRAHAM, CLEMENT B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3628

DATE MAILED: 06/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/873,072

Applicant(s)

CALLIONI ET AL.

Examiner

Clement B. Graham

Art Unit

3628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 19-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 3628

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/16/06 has been entered.

2. Claims 19-36 remain pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 19-36, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 10(e) as being unpatentable over Lidow U.S Patent 6, 889, 197.

As per claim 19, Lidow discloses a process for providing a financial clearinghouse for a supply chain comprising the steps of:

a) defining a plurality of business units comprising the supply chain;
b) providing financing by a clearinghouse (i. e, financier or bank") for at least one of said plurality of business unit wherein said supply chain is a factor in determining a degree of financing for said business unit coordinating supply chain transactions by said financial clearinghouse between said plurality of the business units. (Note abstract and see column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

As per claim 20, Lidow discloses wherein said supply chain transactions comprises at least one of the following:

payments for value-added services, payments for materials, payments for logistic services, credits for value-added services, credits for materials, credits for logistic services, transfer of raw materials, transfer of parts and components, transfer of finished products, transportation of materials, storage of materials, and the exchange of information.(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

Art Unit: 3628

As per claim 21, Lidow discloses a computer implemented method for providing a financial clearinghouse for a supply chain, said method comprising: ordering a component, wherein a first node of a supply chain orders a manufacturing component from a second node of said supply chain and via a supply chain clearinghouse("i. e, fianacier or bank") generating a bill for said manufacturing component by said second node; and coordinating a supply chain transaction by said supply chain clearinghouse between said first node and said second node.(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

As per claim 22, Lidow discloses wherein said supply chain clearinghouse (i. e, financier or bank") coordinates the transfer of financial assets between accounts maintained by said supply chain clearinghouse and wherein said coordinating further comprises: reconciling respective accounts of said first node and said second node; and transferring funds between said respective accounts in response to said reconciling. (Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

As per claim 23, Lidow discloses further comprising: reconciling an account of said supply chain clearinghouse; and transferring funds between said respective accounts and said account of said supply chain clearinghouse(i. e, financier or bank") in response to said reconciling.(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

As per claim 24, Lidow discloses wherein said manufacturing component is selected from the group consisting essentially of raw materials, parts, components, and finished products. (Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35 and column).

As per claim 25, Lidow discloses wherein said coordinating further comprises: generating a payment for a transaction selected from the group consisting essentially of payment for a material, payment for a value-added service, and payment for logistic

Art Unit: 3628

services. (Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

As per claim 26, Lidow discloses wherein said coordinating further comprises: extending credit by said supply chain clearinghouse(i. e, financier or bank") for a transaction selected from the group consisting essentially of extending credit for a material, extending credit for a value-added service, and extending credit for logistic services.(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

As per claim 27, Lidow discloses wherein said coordinating further comprises: expediting a commercial transaction selected from the group consisting essentially of a purchase order, an acknowledgement, electronic billing, and proof of delivery.(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

As per claim 28, Lidow discloses further comprising: conveying ownership of said manufacturing component from said supply chain clearinghouse (i. e, financier or bank") to said first node.(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

As per claim 29, Lidow discloses a computer implemented method for providing a financial clearinghouse for a supply chain, said method comprising: ordering a component, wherein a first node of a supply chain orders a manufacturing component from a second node.(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35) and generating a bill for said manufacturing component by said second node to a supply chain clearinghouse; and coordinating a supply chain transaction by said supply chain clearinghouse between said first node and said second node.(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

As per claim 30, Lidow discloses wherein said supply chain clearinghouse(i. e, financier or bank") coordinates the transfer of financial assets between accounts

Art Unit: 3628

maintained by said supply chain clearinghouse and wherein said coordinating further comprises:

reconciling respective accounts of said first node and said second node; and transferring funds between said respective accounts in response to said reconciling. (Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

As per claim 31, Lidow discloses wherein said supply chain clearinghouse (i. e, financier or bank") coordinates the transfer of financial assets between accounts maintained by said supply chain clearinghouse and wherein said coordinating further comprises:

transferring funds from an account of said supply chain clearinghouse to a respective account of said second node when said manufacturing component is sent to said first node; and transferring funds from a respective account of said first node to said account of said supply chain clearinghouse when said manufacturing component is received by said first node. (Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

As per claim 32, Lidow discloses further comprising: transferring funds from said account of said supply chain clearinghouse (i. e, financier or bank") to a restricted account of said second node to pay for materials used by said second node; and transferring funds from said account of said supply chain clearinghouse to said restricted account of said second node to pay for logistics costs incurred by said second node. (Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

As per claim 33, Lidow discloses wherein said manufacturing component is selected from the group consisting essentially of raw materials, parts, components, and finished products. (Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

As per claim 34, Lidow discloses wherein said coordinating further comprises: generating a payment for a transaction selected from the group consisting essentially of payment for a material, payment for a value-added service, and payment for logistic

Art Unit: 3628

services.(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

As per claim 35, Lidow discloses wherein said coordinating further comprises: expediting a commercial transaction selected from the group consisting essentially of a purchase order, an acknowledgement, electronic billing, and proof of delivery.(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

As per claim 36, Lidow discloses further comprising: conveying ownership of said manufacturing component from said supply chain clearinghouse to said first node.(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

Conclusion

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS

5. Applicant's arguments files on 03/16/2006 have been fully considered but they are moot in view of new grounds of rejection.


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clement B Graham whose telephone number is 703-305-1874. The examiner can normally be reached on 7am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hyung S. Sough can be reached on 703-308-0505. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-0040 for regular communications and 703-305-0040 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

CG

June 18, 2006


FRANTZY POINVIL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
AU 3628